

Middle Tennessee Civil War Round Table



MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Middle Tennessee CWRT will be at 7 PM on Tuesday March 17, 2009. We will meet at the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County (225 West College Street in Murfreesboro).

Norman Shaw of the Knoxville CWRT will tell us the story of the Sultana Disaster. Most people, even those interested in Civil War history, are unaware that the greatest maritime disaster in American history was the explosion of the steamer "Sultana" on April 27, 1865, on the Mississippi River with the loss of 1,800 souls. This Sultana was transporting recently released Union POWs from the infamous Confederate pens at Andersonville, GA, and Cahaba, AL back home. Through greed, human error, and bad fortune, about 2,100 soldiers and nearly 200 passengers and crew faced death by explosion, fire, or drowning when the ship's boilers blew up at 2:00 a.m. about seven miles above Memphis, TN.



Norman Shaw's presentation will describe the last journey of the Sultana and the factors that led to the tragedy. Included will be the story of the Union 3rd Tenn. Cavalry, comprised of men from the Knoxville area, which had aboard a remnant of 360 survivors from the war and Cahaba. Mr. Shaw's talk will conclude with a brief account of the work of the Sultana Association over the last twenty years.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 21, 2009

Mike Warfield – MTCWRT - The Lincoln Assassination

May 19, 2009

Jeff Patrick – Wilson's Creek NB – "A Mean Fowt Fight": The Battle of Wilson's Creek

June 16, 2009

Mike Bradley – Nathan Bedford Forrest's Escort and Staff

If you would like to do a program for the Middle Tennessee CWRT, or if you have a suggestion for a group discussion topic, please get in touch with Jim Lewis at mtcwr@comcast.net or 615-890-1926.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Mike Warfield has volunteered to lead a committee dedicated to developing strategies to increase our membership rolls. Mike will need two or three members to join him in coming up with and implementing initiatives to increase the visibility of the MTCWRT and entice more people to make our group their home for learning about the Civil War.

If you are interesting in helping out, contact Mike at michael.warfield@comcast.net.

CIVIL WAR NEWS

After 150 years of rumors, museum reveals hidden Civil War message engraved in Lincoln watch

By BRETT ZONGKER, Associated Press Writer
8:49 AM PDT, March 10, 2009

WASHINGTON (AP) — For nearly 150 years, a story has circulated about a hidden Civil War message engraved inside one of Abraham Lincoln's pocket watches. Now we know what it says.

On Tuesday at the National Museum of American History, a watchmaker used tiny tools to open the pocket watch and reveal the message left during repairs in 1861. The first line says: "April 13, 1861. Fort Sumter was attacked by the rebels on the above date. J. Dillon." A second line reads: "April 13, 1861. Thank God we have a government. Jonathan Dillon."

Dillon's story circulated among his family and friends, eventually reaching a New York Times reporter. In a 1906 article in the paper, Dillon said he was moved to engrave a message after the first shots of the Civil War were fired in South Carolina.

www.civilwarinteractive.com/

The CWi News Wire is a great source for news and information on the Civil War

Last Month's Trivia Answers

1) What percent of the population of the United States died in the U.S. Civil War?

Choose Your Answer: A: 1 %, B: 2 %, C: 5 %, D: 14 %

The Civil War was fought in 10,000 places, from Val Verde, New Mexico, and Tullahoma, Tennessee, to St. Albans, Vermont, and Fernandina on the Florida coast. More than 3 million Americans fought in it, and over 600,000 men, 2 percent of the population, died in it.

2) What Civil War battle caused the most casualties?

Choose Your Answer: A: Antietam, B: Gettysburg, C: Chickamauga, D: Shiloh

Casualties: 51,112 (23,049 Union and 28,063 Confederate)

3) Who was the only U.S. President to serve the Confederacy during the Civil War?

Choose Your Answer: A: John Tyler, B: Zachary Taylor, C: James Garfield, D: James Polk

Tyler elected to the House of Representatives of the Confederate Congress, but died in Richmond, Virginia before he could assume office.

Tyler's death was the only one in presidential history not to be officially mourned in Washington, because of his allegiance to the Confederacy. Tyler is also sometimes considered the only president to die outside the United States seeing that his place of death, Richmond, Virginia was part of the Confederate States at the time.

4) What type of pet did General Robert E. Lee keep with him during the Civil War?

Choose Your Answer: A: Dog, B: Eagle, C: Chicken, D: Turtle

Lee kept a hen under his bed so he could have fresh eggs while campaigning

5) Who was the last man killed in the U.S. Civil War?

Choose Your Answer: A: Stephen Roberts, B: Albert S. Johnston, C: Francis S. Bartow, D: John J. Williams

The last man to die in combat was killed more than a month after the Confederate surrender ceremony, in a battle at Palmito Ranch in Texas.

1) What was remarkable about the naval battle between the Monitor and the Merrimack?

March's Trivia

1) What was remarkable about the naval battle between the Monitor and the Merrimack?

Choose Your Answer: A: Both were Confederate ships, B: Both were Union ships, C: Both were ironclads, D: Both were unarmed

2) How many times was Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. wounded during the Civil War?

Choose Your Answer: A: Once, B: Twice, C: Three times, D: Not at all

3) What was the first state to secede from the Union?

Choose Your Answer: A: Florida, B: Mississippi, C: South Carolina, D: Alabama

5) How long did it take Abraham Lincoln to deliver his famous Gettysburg Address?

Choose Your Answer: A: 2 Minutes, B: 7 Minutes, C: 12 Minutes, D: 22 Minutes